

NOTE: The statement referred to Gov. Kirk Kempthorne of Idaho and Gov. John A. Kitzhaber of Oregon.

Statement on Congressional Action on Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Legislation *May 23, 2002*

I applaud members of both parties, including Congressmen Tauzin and Dingell and Senators Kennedy, Gregg, and Frist, for acting on my proposals to protect Americans against bioterrorism. This legislation strengthens food safety and security, improves the ability of Federal, State, and local authorities to coordinate their response to possible bioterrorist attacks, and enhances surveillance and security over dangerous biological agents.

I commend the House and Senate for their hard work and look forward to signing this important bipartisan legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3448, the proposed "Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002."

Statement on Senate Action on Trade Legislation *May 23, 2002*

Today's passage by the Senate of a vital package of trade legislation is a critical step in advancing America's trade agenda and strengthening the U.S. economy. As I begin my trip here in Europe, the passage of this bill sends an important signal to our trading partners that we are committed to free and open trade.

Restoring trade promotion authority will give me the flexibility I need to secure the greatest possible trade opportunities for American workers, consumers, families, and farmers. The administration also supports expanding the Andean Trade Preferences Act in a way that reflects the economic realities of the region. ATPA will help the

Andean economies grow through legitimate trade, while also enhancing our counter-narcotics strategy.

Every day the United States goes without trade promotion authority is another day the American people are deprived of the benefits of trade. Therefore, I urge the House and Senate to convene a conference committee immediately so they can resolve their differences and send me a trade promotion authority bill I can sign at the earliest opportunity.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3009, the proposed "Trade Act of 2002."